THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (c) The Central Assistance towards State Plans is given by Planning Commission in block form. A general review of the performance of plan implementation of the States is done at the time of Annual Plan discussions. Various Ministries/Departments of Government of India also provide assistance to the States under different Centrally Sponsored Schemes and monitor the implementation of these schemes as well as the plan schemes of the States pertaining to their sector. The audit reports of Comptroller and Auditor General of India relating to the accounts of State are to be submitted to the Governor of the State who causes them to be laid before the Legislature of the State under Article 151 of the Constitution. The concerned departments of the State Governments are required to submit action taken notes on all audit paragraphs and reviews to the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) duly vetted by the Audit. A report of the PAC containing their observations and recommendations is presented to the State Legislature. Various suggestions have been made for improving the delivery and implementation of the projects/schemes in the Ninth Five Year Plan document. Planning Commission has also been emphasizing the proper utilization of funds by suitable delegation and decentralization to Panchayati Raj Institutions/Urban Local Bodies and also through checking of the implementation of projects/schemes at the ground level.

Determination of Poverty Line

2436. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the definition of poverty line as adopted by the Planning Commission;

(b) whether some state Governments had requested the Planning Commission to change the methodology for determining the poverty line;

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(d) the steps taken to reconsider the suggestions of the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) The Expert Group on Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor (Lakdawala Committee), recommended use of state-specific poverty lines, derived from disaggregation of the national level poverty lines, state-specific price indices and inter-state price differentials. The national poverty lines are expressed as monthly per capita consumption expenditure of Rs. 49.09 in rural areas and Rs. 56.64 in urban areas at 1973-74 prices corresponding to a basket of goods and services anchored on a norm of per capita daily calorie requirement of 2400 kcal in rural areas and 2100 kcal in urban areas. The Planning Commission in a meeting held on 10th March, 1997, under the chairmanship of the then Prime Minister, has accepted this recommendation of the Expert Group, with minor modification, and adopted state specific poverty lines derived from the national poverty lines, using state specific price indices and inter-state price differential.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Planning Commission has received representation from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Orissa in this regard.

(c) and (d) After carefully considering the representations, it has taken the view that there is no justification for changing the official methodology for estimation of poverty.